

Nicholas J. Russo

PhD Candidate
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of California, Los Angeles

nickrusso@ucla.edu
<https://nicholasjrusso.wordpress.com>

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles, CA Ph.D., Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, expected 2024 Advisor: Dr. Thomas Smith	Los Angeles, CA 2018-present
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT Bachelor of Science, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology University Scholar, STEM Scholar, Honors Program	Storrs, CT 2014-2018

PUBLICATIONS

- Valenti, V.L., E.C. Carcelen, K. Lange, **N.J. Russo**, and B. Chapman. 2020. Leveraging Google Earth Engine user interface for semi-automated wetland classification in the Great Lakes Basin at 10 m with optical and radar geospatial datasets. *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing* 13:6008-6018
- Robertson, M.W.*, **N.J. Russo***, S.J. McInnes, B. Goffinet, and J.E. Jiménez. 2020. Potential dispersal of tardigrades by birds through endozoochory: evidence from sub-Antarctic White-bellied Seedsnipe (*Attagis malouinus*). *Polar Biology* 43:899–902. *Shared first authorship
- Russo, N.J.**, M. Robertson, R. MacKenzie, B. Goffinet, and J.E. Jiménez. 2020. Evidence of targeted consumption of mosses by birds in sub-Antarctic South America. *Austral Ecology* 45:399-403.
- Russo, N.J.**, C.S. Elphick, N.P. Havill, and M.W. Tingley. 2019. Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for the hemlock woolly adelgid. *Biological Invasions* 5:1585-1599.
- Featured by *Audubon*, Feb 20, 2019
- Russo, N.J.**, C.A.S.-J. Cheah, and M.W. Tingley. 2016. Experimental evidence for branch-to-bird transfer as a mechanism for avian dispersal of the hemlock woolly adelgid (Hemiptera: Adelgidae). *Environmental Entomology* 45:1107-1114.
- Featured by *Entomology Today*, Aug 1, 2016

INVITED SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA

- All-Biology Undergraduate Symposium, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2018. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for a forest insect invasion.*
- Yale-Myers Forest Summer Seminar Series: Eastford, CT, USA. 2017. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for an invasive insect pest.*

Northeast Natural History Conference, Cromwell, CT, USA. 2017. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for an invasive insect pest.*

Holster Scholar Project Summer Research Presentations, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2015. *Avian dispersal of the hemlock woolly adelgid.*

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Cape May, NJ, USA. 2019. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for a forest insect invasion.* Oral presentation.

International Ornithological Congress, Vancouver, BC, CA. 2018. *Consumption of bryophytes by montane, sub-Antarctic birds.* Oral presentation and e-Poster.

American Ornithological Society Meeting, Tucson, AZ, USA. 2018. *Spring bird migration as a dispersal mechanism for a forest insect invasion.* Oral presentation.

Connecticut Entomological Society Meeting, Storrs, CT, USA. 2017. *Avian spring migration as a dispersal mechanism for the hemlock woolly adelgid.* Oral presentation.

Wilson Ornithological Society Meeting, Ft. Myers, FL, USA. 2017. *Avian spring migration as a dispersal mechanism for an invasive insect pest.* Oral presentation.

Fall Frontiers Undergraduate Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2016. *Temporal differences in avian dispersal of Adelgidae crawlers.* Poster.

Fall Frontiers Undergraduate Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA. 2015. *Avian dispersal of the hemlock woolly adelgid.* Poster.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

EEB 100L: Introduction to Ecology and Behavior
Teaching Assistant

Winter 2020, Winter 2019
*Instructors: Dr. Leryn Gorlitsky,
Dr. Alison Lipman*

EEB 151A: Tropical Ecology
Teaching Assistant

Fall 2019
Instructor: Dr. Leryn Gorlitsky

Bird Identification Workshop, Yale-Myers Forest
Workshop Leader

Summer 2018

Bryophyte Ecology, Tracing Darwin's Path,
Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program
Informal Teaching Assistant

Winter 2018
Instructor: Dr. Roy MacKenzie

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Partnership for Forests
Collaborating GIS Scientist

Remote Work

Feb 2021-present

NASA DEVELOP Program
Applied Earth Science Intern

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, CA, USA

Jan-Apr 2020

Sustainable Ebony Project <i>Collaborating Scientist</i>	Congo Basin Institute Yaoundé, Cameroon	Sept 2018
Bird Genoscape Project <i>Collaborating Scientist</i>	University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA	Apr 2018-present
Great Hollow Ecological Research Center <i>Collaborating Scientist</i>	New Fairfield, CT, USA	May-Jun 2018
Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program <i>Student Researcher</i>	Navarino Island, Chile	Dec 2017-Jan 2018
UConn Writing Center <i>Writing Tutor</i>	Storrs, CT, USA	Aug 2016-May 2018
Saltmarsh Habitat Avian Research Program <i>Volunteer Field Assistant</i>	CT and RI, USA	Jul 2016
National Audubon Society <i>Volunteer Bird Banding Intern</i>	Sharon, CT, USA	Jun-Aug 2015
Tingley Lab, UConn <i>Bird Banding Data Specialist</i>	Storrs, CT, USA	Jan 2015-May 2018
Urban Lab, UConn <i>Laboratory and Field Analysis Specialist</i>	Storrs, CT, USA	Oct 2014-Jan 2016

FELLOWSHIPS

2020-23	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
2020	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (Declined for NSF award) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featured by <i>UCLA Newsroom</i>, Aug 27, 2020
2018	Alumni Fellowship, UCLA
2018	Lida Scott Brown Fellowship, UCLA <i>Awarded to outstanding applicant in avian biology</i>

RESEARCH FUNDING

2021-23	NASA ROSES Program Element A.7: Biodiversity, “Understanding seed disperser movements and their consequences across rainforest gradients of structural and phenological diversity” (\$619,840)
	PI and Co-PI: T.B. Smith, S. Saatchi
	Co-Is: A. Ferraz, E. Ordway, M. Crofoot
	Collaborators: N.J. Russo , M. Luskin, M. Wikelski, V. Deblauwe, V. Zaunbrecher, M. Lebreton, N. Barbier

- 2020 IDEA Wild (\$1000)
- 2020 Greenville Zoo Conservation Grant (\$865)
- 2020 Association for Tropical Biology Seed Grant (\$1000)
- 2020 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research (\$916)
- 2020 Hesse Award, American Ornithological Society (\$2500)
- 2020 Animal Behavior Society (\$1000)
- 2019 GoFundMe campaign: “Rainforest Bird Research in Cameroon” (\$1650)
- 2019 Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Award, UCLA (\$2500)
- 2019 Lida Scott Brown Research Stipend, UCLA (\$1000)
- 2018 Katie Bu Memorial Fund Botany Award, UConn (\$1480; returned)
- 2017 Office of Undergraduate Research Supply Award, UConn (\$500)
- 2017 Jed Burtt Mentoring Grant, Wilson Ornithological Society (\$1000)
Advisor: Dr. Morgan Tingley
- 2017 Great Hollow Ecological Research Center Grant (\$1000)
- 2017 DeMaio Family Summer Undergraduate Research Fund Award, UConn (\$4000)
- 2016 IDEA Grant, UConn (\$4000)
- 2015 Holster Scholar, UConn (\$4000)

CONSERVATION FUNDING

- 2017 Connecticut Ornithological Society Mini-grant, UConn Birding Club (\$400)
Wrote grant proposal and oversaw project to plant native plant species and construct an interpretive panel for the birds of the UConn EcoGarden

TRAVEL FUNDING

- 2018 American Ornithological Society Travel Award (\$400)
- 2017 Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Award, UConn (\$500)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2018 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2018 Margaret F. Ertman Award for Excellence in Biology, UConn
Highest honors given to one graduating student for achievement in undergraduate biological research
- 2018 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Alternate
- 2018 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention
- 2017 Nancy Klamm Best Undergraduate Student Oral Paper, Wilson Ornith. Soc.
- 2017 Connecticut Entomological Society Best 5-minute Talk
- 2017-18 University Scholar, University of Connecticut
Award given annually to 30 UConn students for exceptional engagement in research
- 2017 Barry Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention
- 2016 Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Environmental Scholar
 - Covered by *UConn Today* May 10, 2016

- 2016 American Ornithologists' Union Student Membership Award
 2014-18 UConn STEM Scholarship for Academic Excellence

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019-present Reviewer: *Biological Invasions, Ecology and Evolution, Wilson Journal of Ornithology*
- 2018-present Bruin Audubon Society and Birding Club, UCLA
 Vice President: 2018-2020
- 2018-present Bruin Naturalists Club, UCLA
 Board Member: 2018-present
- 2017-present Wilson Ornithological Society
 Student and Early Professional Board Member: 2018-present
 Co-chair: 2020-present
- 2018 Environmental Literacy Task Force, UConn
 Designed implementation plan for UConn general education requirement in Environmental Literacy
- 2016-18 UConn ECOalition member
 Alliance of environment-focused student organizations, petitioned for general education requirement in Environmental Literacy
- 2015-18 UConn Birding Club: Co-founder and president
- Professional memberships: Animal Behavior Society, American Ornithological Society, Sigma Xi, Wilson Ornithological Society

OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- 2021 Invited guest speaker: EEB 151A Tropical Ecology course, UCLA
- 2020 National Audubon Society Birding Buddies: Mentored university student virtually in bird identification
- 2019-20 GreenShorts Environmental Film Contest, UCLA: Mentored two high school students in the creation of an environment-focused short film and judged entries
- 2019 Invited guest speaker: Advanced Business Communication course, Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI, USA
- 2019 Public presentation on radio-tracking birds to community members of Bifolone, Cameroon
- 2015-17 Connecticut BioBlitz: Bird and bryophyte expert and public bird walk leader, 24-hour natural history survey, once per year
- 2015-17 Rhode Island BioBlitz: Bird and bryophyte expert, 24-hour natural history survey, once per year

- 2016-present Christmas Bird Count: Sector leader in Scituate, RI and Chaplin, CT, continually one day per year
- 2016 Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Banded purple martins and Canada geese for annual population survey

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING PROFICIENCY

R; QGIS; Google Earth Engine JavaScript API; Adobe Illustrator

LANGUAGES

English (Native); French (Advanced); Spanish (Rudimentary)